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IVAN W KIRK

FROM THE **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Science and
Education
Administration

Washington, D.C.
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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

October 18, 1978

Some thoughts on SEA. Few have had the opportunity of being the first director of an agency as important in the lives of all Americans as SEA is. . .which is why, after over three months on the job, I continue to derive a great deal of satisfaction from being a part of this new agency and working with the talented people that make it the effective and dynamic force it is.

SEA is an idea whose time has come. It is an agency that does not have the leisure to grow gradually from small beginnings. . .because it began in the first place as an amalgamation of already very large units in USDA. SEA therefore has to take hold quickly as the lead agency in the federal government for food and agricultural research and education.

The days and nights are too short for all the things that must yet be done, but step-by-step progress is being made.

As I reported in my last letter, we presented our 1980 budget to the Secretary on August 10. Although considerable SEA staff effort continues to be required by the Department and OMB as the budget takes shape, SEA managers have been able to devote more attention to programmatic matters.

And our 1979 budget is now in place. It was signed into law by the President on October 11. More details later in this letter.

Recent and upcoming activities. I was glad to have the opportunity during the past weeks to take time out from budget and other administrative chores to visit with many of you, both here in Washington and in the field.

I took part in an awards ceremony at our research center in Beltsville, Maryland, where a number of our AR regional people were accorded well-deserved recognition.

I spoke to several organizations across the country. . .to the National Association of County Agents, the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, the American Association of University Administrators of Agriculture, the Council of Administrative Heads of Agriculture, and the State Directors of Extension.

I particularly enjoyed returning to Texas. . .to the "Black-Land Belt" where I grew up. . .to participate in the 75th anniversary celebration of Farm Demonstration Work at Terrell, Texas, at the John Porter farm, where extension work as we know it today had its origins, thanks to Dr. Seaman Knapp and John Porter.

Earlier, I accompanied Assistant Secretary Rupert Cutler and EPA Assistant Administrator Steven Jellinek on a visit to several Integrated Pest Management projects in Texas. Also with us were personnel from Texas A&M, Texas Tech, SCS, and SEA.

I regret having missed the Agricultural Research (AR) meeting at the 4-H Center in Washington, D.C., October 2-4, but at the time I was fulfilling a speaking engagement in San Luis Obispo, Ca., at the American Association of University Administrators of Agriculture (AAUAA). Dr. McCracken represented me at the AR meeting. I hope to have the opportunity of meeting with the same group in the near future.

I have established a schedule for meeting monthly with the State Agricultural Experiment Station Regional Directors.

In August I visited SEA's Grain Insect Laboratory and other research and teaching facilities at South Dakota State University, Brookings.

Later this month I will visit the Northeastern Regional Research Center at Philadelphia, Pa., and the National Seed Storage Laboratory at Ft. Collins, Col. In November I will visit the Animal Disease Research Center at Plum Island, N.Y.

And I am pleased by the many personal visits I have already had with people from all over the country who have come to my office when in Washington. I have met many people but there are many more I want to meet. . .and I appreciate very much the advice I have received so far on the common problems facing us.

1979 SEA budget signed into law. The President signed our 1979 budget into law on October 11, following passage by the Congress as recommended by House and Senate conferees (Public Law 95-448).

Agricultural Research received \$338,416,000 for research, \$35,720,000 for facilities construction, and \$5,750,000 for scientific activities overseas.

Overall, AR received \$24.1 million more than last year. The Congress restored \$6.3 million of the \$9.4 million cut proposed by the Administration for processing, storage, and marketing research. It also restored, in full, funds for housing research and for tropical and sub-tropical research.

Cooperative Research received \$174,395,000. . . \$16,245,000 more than last year. This is the amount the Administration recommended.

The amounts appropriated under the Hatch Act, the McIntire-Stennis Act, and Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972 are the same as last year.

The Congress appropriated \$5 million more for animal health and disease research, and increased funding for the 1890 Colleges and the Tuskegee Institute by \$2,207,000. The competitive research grants program is funded at \$15 million, the same as last year. This is half the amount recommended by the Administration.

Extension received \$275,339,000. . . \$13,352,000 more than the Administration recommended, and \$6,337,000 more than last year. The Congress restored cuts proposed by the Administration for rural development, farm safety, urban gardening, and Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972. The Extension portion of the budget provides \$3.8 million for increased salary costs of state employees, increases Extension's

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) by \$1.25 million, and adds \$782 thousand for the 1890 Colleges and the Tuskegee Institute. It also retains increases proposed by the Administration for Integrated Pest Management (\$1 million) and pesticide impact assessment (\$1 million).

Technical Information Systems, including the National Agricultural Library, received \$7.5 million. . . \$650 thousand more than last year.

Grant awards completed. The first year of our competitive research grants program was successfully completed on September 29 when Secretary Bergland announced the last group of awards. There are 197 projects adding up to \$14.4 million in grant funds, with \$9.6 million allocated to crop research (photosynthesis, nitrogen fixation, genetic engineering, and biological stress) and \$4.8 million to human nutrition research.

We received over 1,100 proposals from 205 research organizations. Here is a breakdown of the proposals received and the grants awarded:

	<u>Proposals Received</u>	<u>Grants Awarded</u>
Land-Grant Universities and State Agricultural Experiment Stations	722	122
Other public universities and colleges	143	26
Private universities	122	28
Other nonacademic organizations	55	9
Federal agencies	<u>67</u>	<u>12</u>
Total.....	1109	197

Nine of the 12 federal grants went to SEA scientists: Dr. William A. Ayers, Beltsville, Md.; Dr. J. M. Kaper, Beltsville, Md.; Dr. David T. Patterson, Stoneville, Miss.; Dr. Myron K. Brakke, Lincoln, Neb.; Dr. Paul E. Bishop, Raleigh, N.C.; Dr. Alois A. Bell, College Station, Tex.; Dr. Roger E. Wyse, Logan, Utah; Dr. R. James Cook, Pullman, Wash.; and Dr. Robert E. Hanneman, Jr., Madison, Wis.

Other grant news (energy). We have completed arrangements with the Department of Energy for \$1.2 million in reimbursable funds to demonstrate the use of solar energy on livestock farms.

We plan to fund 50 to 100 demonstrations in 5 to 10 states. Pre-proposal requests were mailed in mid-September. The preproposals will be coming in on November 1, and by November 15 those selected will be notified. Full proposals will be due February 1, 1979.

The solar energy demonstrations will draw on four years of solar energy research. The project is a good example of the kind of coordination between research and extension that SEA was designed to carry out.

Questions concerning this project should be addressed to the project leader in Extension, Mr. William T. Cox (202/447-5369).

Human Nutrition Center Administrator aboard. Dr. D. Mark Hegsted joined us on September 5 as Administrator of SEA's Human Nutrition Center. As such he is responsible for administering the research and funding in human nutrition previously administered by the former ARS. He will work closely with our Deputy Director for Cooperative Research to make sure human nutrition research focuses on priority problems. To this end, he will recommend priority areas in human nutrition research funded by SEA's Competitive Grants Office.

Dr. Hegsted was born in Rexburg, Idaho. He received a bachelor of science from the University of Idaho and both a master of science and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Before joining SEA he was professor of nutrition and head of the department at Harvard University's School of Public Health, where he taught since 1942.

At Harvard, Dr. Hegsted served on the editorial boards of several journals, including the "Journal of Chronic Diseases," "Nutrition Reviews," "Journal of Lipid Research," and "Circulation Research." He has authored or co-authored over 300 articles on human nutrition. He served as president of the American Institute of Nutrition and of the National Nutrition Consortium, and is a member of the executive committee of the assembly of life sciences of the National Academy of Sciences, the medical sciences panel of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and the expert advisory panel on nutrition of the World Health Organization.

Other personnel items. Katherine R. Tollerton now heads SEA's legislative staff. She comes to us after several years of experience on Capitol Hill. Her most recent employment was with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. I look forward to her help in an area that is both complex and important.

Charles L. Beer is now Chief of our Current and Future Priorities Staff and no longer has "acting" before his title.

Joint Council meeting. The Joint Council for Food and Agricultural Sciences held its third meeting October 11-12. Alternative organizational proposals for the Council were reviewed and will now be circulated to interested organizations for comments. The Council also reviewed several reports and elected two members to its Executive Committee. . . Dr. Emery Castle, Vice President of Resources For the Future, and Dr. John Mahlstede, Associate Director of the Iowa Agricultural and Home Economics Experiment Station, Iowa State University.

Technical Information Systems (TIS) reaches out. Speaking at the AAUAA meeting on October 3 at San Luis Obispo, Ca., Dr. Richard Farley, SEA Deputy Director for Technical Information Systems (TIS), announced plans for greatly expanding technical information services. Land-grant universities have routinely used these services. But now TIS intends to "reach out" beyond the land-grant system and make its information services available to the non-land-grant institutions. These services include the National Agricultural Library (NAL), the Agricultural Libraries Information Network (ALIN), and the Automated Agricultural Information Systems (AAIS).

SEA Management Team and Staff locations. You might find the following room and telephone number listing useful.

Dr. Anson R. Bertrand Director Science and Education	Room 302-A 44-75923 Mrs. Marion Harris, Sec.
Dr. Ralph J. McCracken Acting Associate Director Science and Education	Room 302-A 44-78885 Mrs. Claudene Spence, Sec.
Dr. James Nielson Deputy Director Joint Planning & Evaluation	Room 304-A 44-78662 Sec. (Vacant)
Dr. Thomas Ronningen Acting Deputy Director Cooperative Research	Room 322-A 44-74423 Mrs. Mildred Jackson, Sec.
Mr. T. W. Edminster Deputy Director Agricultural Research	Room 340-A 44-73656 Mrs. Dorothy Harnish, Sec.
Dr. Neill Schaller Deputy Director Extension	Room 330-A 44-73377 Mrs. Dorothy Fones, Sec.
Dr. Richard A. Farley Deputy Director Technical Information Systems	Room 200 34-43778 Mrs. Mary Ball, Sec.
Dr. Homer C. Folks Assistant Director Higher Education	Room 425-A 44-76651 Miss Ann Giddo, Sec.
Dr. Keith Shea Assistant Director Program Management	Room 440-A 44-77223 Mrs. Ferol Lacey, Sec.
Mr. Arthur A. Nies Deputy Director Administrative Management	Room 358-A 44-73801 Mrs. Maxine Mears, Sec.
Dr. D. Mark Hegsted Administrator Human Nutrition	Room 335-A 44-76961 Mrs. Mildred Guard, Sec.

Staffs

Alice Skelsey Information	Room 5133-S 44-74433 Ms. Virginia Dantley, Sec.
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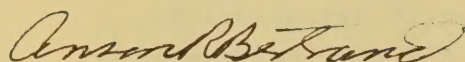
Katherine Tollerton
Legislative

Room 323-A
44-77141
Ms. Randi Parks

Curt Deville
Equal Opportunity

Room 418-W
44-75349
Mrs. Violet Martin

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anson R. Bertrand". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Anson" being more prominent than the last name "Bertrand".

ANSON R. BERTRAND
Director
Science and Education

